

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTIO, IZ, BE

SUBJ: BELGIAN FIRM WINS 660 MILLION DOLLAR CONTRACT FOR PHOS-
PHATE CHEMICAL COMPLEX AT AKASHAT

1. ON JANUARY 21, GOI MINISTER OF INDUSTRY TAHA AL-JEZRAWI SIGNED CONTRACT WITH SYBETRA CORPORATION (UNION MINIERE SUBSIDIARY) OF BELGIUM TO DEVELOPE A PHOSPHATE CHEMICAL PROJECT AT AKASHAT IN NORTHWESTERN IRAQ. THE PROJECT IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN APRIL 1980. THE MINISTER DESCRIBED THIS AS THE MOST AMBITIOUS INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING IN IRAQ. PROJECT IS VALUED AT NEARLY 660 MILLION DOLLARS.

2. SYBETRA IS THOUGH TO HAVE BEEN AWARDED EARLIER CONTRACT TO DEVELOPE MASSIVE PHOSPHATE DEPOSITS AT AKAHAT IN NORTHWESTERN IRAQ. OTHER UNDERTAKINGS BEING PLANNED OR UNDER DISCUSSION FOR THE BARREN DESERT AREA AROUND AKASHAR INCLUDE A 70 KILO-METER RAIL SPUR, A PIPELINE TO DELIVER WATER FROM THE EUPHRATES RIVER, AND CREATION OF NEW TOWNS TO HOUSE WORKERS REQUIRED FOR THE INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX.

3. VISITING SYBETRA OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED TO USINT THEY WILL PROBABLY BE USING GREAT DEAL OF US EQUIPMENT FOR BOTH MINING AND INDUSTRIAL PORTIONS OF AKASHAT OPERATIONS.

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